

FILE COPY

29 August 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: South Vietnam Operations Course
Presentation by Lt. General Lewis W. Walt

25X1A 1. On 25 August 1967 Lt. General Lewis W. Walt, USMC, addressed the [REDACTED] in the Magazine Building before a group of approximately 25 students plus some 10 visitors. The essence of the General's remarks were "hawkish". He believes in the U. S. mission in South Vietnam. He is convinced that our defeat in that area would encourage communism in Southeast Asia and result in the ultimate destruction of the emerging nations of that part of the world. He believes progress is being made and that we will win if we persist.

2. He stated that he was on the lecture circuit, pointing out that he had been in New Orleans the day before addressing the Veterans of Foreign Wars convention, and that he will continue to speak throughout the U. S. because this is what President Johnson wants him to do. The General stated that he had recently spent time talking to the editors of The New York Times. He said certain responsible, older newsmen were reporting in a very fine manner, but many younger men were out solely for a story at the cost of facts.

3. He was highly complimentary of the Agency's role in Vietnam and stated several times that the most important thing in the struggle in South Vietnam today is the acquisition of perishable intelligence. He gave an example of how Agency information had warned of a North

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Vietnamese ambush, and led to the destruction of the perpetrators of that ambush. The General spoke for approximately 35 minutes and was questioned in a lively manner by the class for 30 minutes more.

4. It was a good session.

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Deputy Director of Training

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